

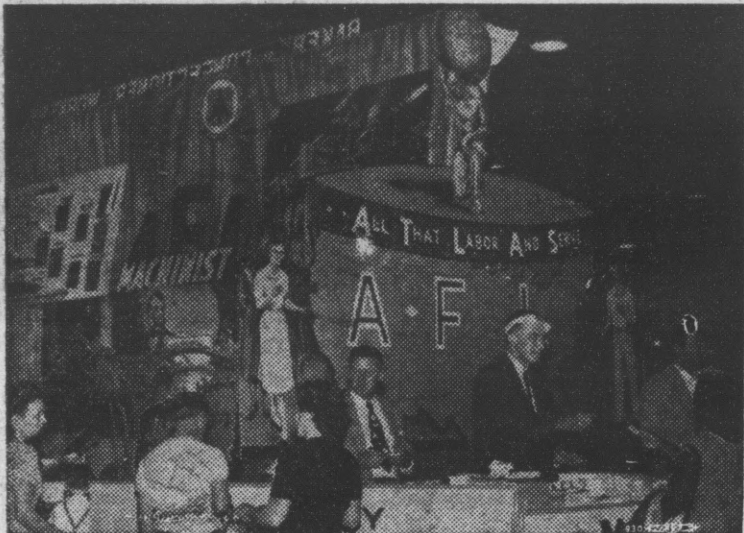
MONTEREY COUNTY Labor News

Covering the Counties of Monterey and San Benito

VOL. XVI—NO. 16

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1953

WHOLE NO. 790



FARMERS GET UNION STORY—Invading the strongly anti-union Pomona Valley of California, AFL unions sponsored what proved to be one of the most popular booths at world's biggest county fair, Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona. Here Machinists Vice President Roy Brown, Russell Robinson of the Butchers, and Tommy Aycock of the Machinists distribute AFL leaflets to visitors.—(LPA.)

Mont. Laborers Wait Yule Fete

Interest in the coming Christmas Party of Monterey Laborers Union 690 is rising, according to Union Secretary George E. Jenkins. The party, for members and their children, will be Saturday night, Dec. 19, at the Labor Temple.

Jenkins said two professional vaudeville acts, of interest to children, have been scheduled. Candy and gifts have been ordered and will be distributed by Santa Claus at the party.

Members of Local 690 received another boost last week when Department of Employment officials visited the union office and approved the union's "plug board" system for reporting men out of work and listing their position in line for jobs. This will facilitate collection of unemployment insurance by laborers, Jenkins explained.

Only new work reported last week for laborers was an addition to the Santa Catalina School, started by Contractor F. V. Hampshire.

Salinas Barber Elections Due Monday, Dec. 15

Final nominations and balloting in the election of officers of Salinas Barbers Union 827 are scheduled at the next meeting, Tuesday night, Dec. 15, according to Jimmie Butler, secretary.

Report of the visit by W. W. Pierce, international vice president, and discussions of the recent audit and of proposals for a new form of working agreement and by-laws for the union will be discussed. Officer installations will be in January.

Those nominated for the union's election at the November meeting include:

For President—Homer Coley; Albert Plopa and Herbert Ridgeway.

For Vice-President—Louis Conine, Joe Barbera and Mel Hufhines.

For Recorder—Doss L. Hill.

For Secretary-Treasurer—Jimmie Butler.

For Guide—Virgil Hill, Ray Ferris, Nate Freeman and Paul Moore.

For Guardian—Guy Falbo.

Carpenters 1323 Plan Xmas Party This Saturday

Plans are being completed by Carpenters Union 1323 for a Christmas Party this Saturday evening at the Portuguese Hall on Casanova Street in Monterey, it was reported.

Tom Stone, chairman of the affair, could not be reached for a report on details of the party and program.

It was learned, however, that the party is primarily for children of members, with Santa Claus scheduled to appear to distribute gifts and goodies to the youngsters. Refreshments will be offered also.

Building Body Seeking More Representation

Steps were taken by the Monterey County Building Trades Council at its last November meeting to improve attendance at meetings, according to Secretary Dial H. Miles.

Letters were authorized to be sent to local unions whose delegates are not coming to meetings regularly, suggesting that more active representatives be delegated to attend council sessions.

At the last meeting, delegates from the council's newest affiliate, Monterey Carpenters Union 1323, were obligated. They include George Wilson, Harold Wright, Byron Chappel and W. E. Booker. A new delegate from Plumbers Union 503, F. Johnson, was obligated also.

Business at the meeting included discussion of unemployment compensation problems, such as new difficulties for union men to qualify for the payments.

The council's executive board met earlier to discuss several cases reported where contractors had crossed through official picket lines.

More Anchovies

With the "sardine season" half over and no sardines being caught anywhere in the fishing zone, boats continue to land anchovies where even possible, union officials report. Anchovies were brought to two Monterey plants by truck last week. Another plant got some squid, it was reported.

Children's Xmas Party Plans Complete; Event Set Dec. 19

Laborers 272, Please Note

TO ALL MEMBERS OF LABORERS UNION 272 OF SALINAS:

Next regular meeting of the Salinas Laborers Union 272 is scheduled for 8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 14, at the Salinas Labor Temple, 117 Pajaro St.

It behooves all members to attend this meeting as some very important business will be considered. Please be present.

JOHN F. MATTOS,
Secretary L. U. 272

County Housing Studies Slated; Labor to Join

The housing outlook and needs of the communities in Monterey County will receive a thorough scrutiny this month when the Housing Authority of the County of Monterey conducts a series of four "shirt-sleeve conferences," with "every organization which has an idea on housing" invited to participate.

Eleanor R. Walters, executive director of the Housing Authority, announced a tentative schedule for the meeting. She said half-day sessions are planned for the Monterey-Pacific Grove-Carmel-Seaside area, Salinas, the Gonzales-Soledad area and the portion of the county from King City south.

"We are calling the meetings at the suggestion of Albert E. Cole, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, who heads President Eisenhower's Committee on the Government's Policies and Programs," Mrs. Walters said.

"Mr. Cole held numerous meetings of this kind with national

(Continued on Page Eight)

Carlson Chosen County Inspector

Ed Carlson, Salinas contractor, has been chosen by supervisors as the first Monterey County Building Inspector under the new county Uniform Building Code, which becomes effective January 1.

Carlson will set up his offices at once and get ready to conduct affairs of his new position at the first of the year. S. Maybury, of Monterey, was named his assistant.

Lara Heads Committee Arranging Annual Party; 3,000 Are Expected

With Carl Lara, of Painters Union 1104, as general chairman, the committee arranging for the annual free Children's Christmas Party sponsored by the Central Labor Council and all major Salinas unions announced last week-end that everything is in readiness for this year's event, Saturday evening, Dec. 19, at Palma School Auditorium, 245 Iverson St.

Lara said the Palma School auditorium was being used this year because a larger hall is needed. The Christmas parties in past years have been in the high school auditorium but last year the crowd overflowed the school hall.

Starting time for the party this year is 7 p.m. Arrangements have been made so that parents may leave youngsters and call for them about an hour later. City policemen and firemen will be on hand to watch out for the kiddies. The party is for children from ages 4 to 12—and is open to ALL children in the Salinas area, regardless of whether parents have union affiliation.

There will be a live show for the children, with an orchestra provided through the Music Performance Trust Fund of the Recording Industry, under arrangements by Musicians Union 616. The entertainment will include local talent.

Lara estimated that some 3000 youngsters will be on hand for this year's party and would be given Christmas gifts and bags filled with candy, fruit and nuts. Everything is free and all children are invited, he pointed out.

A large committee of the Central Labor Council of Monterey County, which is located in Salinas, has been working to arrange the party. Special events have been under way, with the climax at the council meeting Friday night, Dec. 18.

The party has been financed through a sale of tickets by union members. Award winners in ticket contests will be announced after Dec. 18.

Members of the general committee are Lara, John F. Mattos, Peter Greco, Earl Choate, Virgil Knight, Carl Jones and John Lewis.

Sub-committees have been set up with specific tasks to handle, these including:

Auditorium and seating—Virgil Knight and R. A. Wood.

Policemen and Firemen—A. J. Clark.

Procure and erect tree—H. B. Baldwin and Merle Martin.

Fill candy bags—Carl Jones and Janet Barber.

Tree lighting—Dial H. Miles.

Spotlights and projection—Al

Finlay Jr. and Art Reina.

Procure candy bags—Glen Wilkerson.

Arrange for entertainment—John Lewis and Jimmie Butler.

Master of ceremonies—John Lewis.

Decorate tree—Peter Greco.

Transport supplies to auditorium—Earl Choate.

Ushers—John Mattos and Robert Shinn.

Arrange for Santa Claus' visit—Jimmie Butler.

Distribute toys—John Mattos and Robert Shinn.

IMPORTANT TO PLUMBERS

Members of Plumbers Union 62 of Monterey were advised last week by Business Manager John Grisin that the next meeting will be held on Friday night, Dec. 18, at Carpenters Hall in Monterey. The meeting has been moved up from its originally scheduled date, which falls on Christmas Day.

Local 62 will have a Christmas Party for members and their families at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at El Estero Hall, the new Bricklayers Union 16 hall, on Pearl St. in Monterey.

All members are urged to bring their children. There will be entertainment and distribution of gifts by Santa Claus. Chairman of arrangements is Lee Lirette.

Salinas IBEW Office Hours

Effective at once, the offices of Electrical Workers 243 will be kept open on a very limited basis, until further notice, Business Manager Dial H. Miles announces.

The office, in Salinas Labor Temple, will be open from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. only, Mondays through Friday, for the dispatching of men and collection of dues. Members are urged to note this new schedule.

Business Manager Miles has been attending various meetings, in Sacramento, for a state building trades session and in Bakersfield to take part in negotiations for an oil field contract.

Butchers Change Monterey Meetings

Meetings of Butchers Union 506 of Monterey will be held in Carpenters Hall, 778 Hawthorne St., Monterey, starting next year, it was disclosed last week.

Tom Eide, business manager of the Monterey Carpenters Union, said he had been informed by the Carpenters Hall Association that the Butchers Union will meet on the second Monday of each month, with first meeting at the new hall set for Jan. 11.

ROB PEOPLE 41 YEARS!

Ottawa (LPA)—Ten companies have been taking part in an illegal price-fixing combine in the electrical wire and cable industry since 1912, a special government report charged.

The 247-page report, the result of an 18-month investigation, charged the combine covered almost all of the \$124 million industry, and included the nation's Big 4 firms.

Included among those accused are Northern Electric Company, a subsidiary of Bell Telephone of Canada, and Canadian General Electric, controlled by GE of the United States. Special Commissioner H. Carl Goldenberg said the investigation showed a "studied effort" to "conceal" activities and "a calculated attempt to disguise the fact that net prices in each company's book were identical."



Stop Security "Freeze" State Federation Asks

(State Fed. Release)

In a letter sent last week to all California Congressmen, C. J. Haggerty, secy.-treas. of the California State Federation of Labor requested that federal legislators vote down any effort to "freeze" the present social security tax rate at its present level of 1½ per cent.

The payroll tax which supports the federal Social Security program is scheduled by law to increase on Jan. 1, 1954, from the present rate of 1½ per cent on employers and employees to the rate of 2 per cent.

The increase is necessary to insure the solvency of the Social Security system and to build up and maintain the trust fund from which old age benefits will be paid to future generations of retired workers as well as to those currently drawing benefits.

The national AFL is strongly supporting the scheduled increase in the Social Security contribution rate.

The state AFL letter to California Congressmen pointed out that:

(1) To freeze the Social Security tax at its present rate would involve no real saving for workers. Rather, it would serve to deprive them of the matching increase in contributions scheduled to be paid by their employers. It is in effect a disguised tax cut for employers, at the expense of the Social Security trust fund. The trust fund is in itself a form of savings, and the increased contributions scheduled for Jan. 1, represent an increase of the worker's savings in the fund.

(2) While it is true that the scheduled increase in the Social Security payroll tax may equal or exceed the amount by which a lower paid worker's income taxes are reduced through the automatic 10 per cent reduction schedule for next year, the significant point is that the case illustrates the unfairness of a flat percentage across-the-board method of reducing income taxes.

This method brings large tax cuts to the wealthy and very small cuts to the wage earner. This situation cannot be corrected by any retroactive freezing of the Social Security tax rate. The appropriate and fair method of correcting this inequity is through a revision of the income tax structure to make it more progressive. The first step should be an increase in personal exemptions.

(3) The increase in the Social Security tax rate is necessary if the trust fund is to remain solvent and capable of supporting benefit payments in future years. According to the most reliable actual estimates, unless the in-

crease is granted, the Social Security trust fund will not only fail to build up the necessary interest-yielding reserve, but will actually show a deficit by 1960.

At its 1953 convention held in San Francisco, the state AFL favored the increased contribution rate, and further, called for changes in the federal Social Security law to assure adjustments in benefits with the rising trend in living costs and wages.

The state AFL policy statement pointed out that in spite of the progress made by the liberalizing amendments of 1950 and 1952, benefits are still lagging in terms of living costs and present day concepts of the American standard of living.

The minimum benefit remains at \$25; a qualified single worker with an average base wage of \$300 a month (the U. S. average for the factory worker today), computed on the liberalized "new start" basis, gets only \$85, not very much more than the \$80 he is entitled to in California under the state aid to the aged law. In light of findings of the Federal Security Administration in 1951 that fewer than one in every three persons 65 years and over was receiving income from employment, these benefits are hardly adequate, even when considered in light of the avowed purpose of the OASI program to provide only a floor of protection for the aged.

Industrialists Ask End Of Paid Time Off For Voting in N. Y.

Albany, N. Y. (LPA)—Associated Industries of New York State, representing 1600 manufacturers, has asked for repeal of the state law allowing employees two hours off with pay on election day.

An official of the group, John R. Shaw, said the law, enacted in 1909 "when a 12-hour working day was not uncommon," is "archaic" and is used as a "petty racket." He said shorter working hours give all employees a chance to vote on their own time because the polls are open 11 hours for regular elections, 13 for Presidential elections.

AFL-CIO in Unity Meet

(AFL Release)

AFL and CIO peace committees will resume their joint sessions on Dec. 16 in the nation's capital, it was announced by the heads of the two organizations.

This will be the first meeting since agreement was reached on a no-raiding pact last June. Since then the executive councils and the national conventions of both AFL and CIO have ratified the pact. It will go into effect next Jan. 1 and will be binding on all national and international unions which sign it.

While no explanatory statement was issued in connection with the call for the new meeting of the negotiating committees, AFL Pres. George Meany said recently that the next step facing the conferees is the negotiating of actual organic unity.

As a prelude to over-all unity, it was expected that merger agreements would have to be worked out in advance between rival unions of the two organizations operating in the same field and competing for the right to represent the same groups of workers.

The no-raiding agreement was expected to create a more peaceful and friendlier atmosphere for these talks. Final arrangements for processing the signatures of affiliated unions to the no-raiding pact may also be dealt with at the Dec. 16 parley.

Ike Aide Lauds ILO; Prove It, Says AFL's Delegate

Geneva (LPA)—A representative of President Eisenhower praised the International Labor Organization as "the greatest single agency of international action that exists," and AFL's George P. Delaney, the labor representative from the U.S., promptly suggested the "glowing statement" be translated into greater financial aid for ILO, which has been attacked bitterly by American reactionaries.

Teachers Federation Opposed to Present Method of Loyalty Check; Rust Re-elected for Third Term

Present methods used in conducting loyalty investigations were described as unfair to those who are affected by them, and the California State Federation of Teachers is for this reason opposed to the present method of loyalty checks.

This was the stand taken by the Federation at its annual convention held on Nov. 27 and 28 in Oakland's Hotel Leamington, with delegates from 20 local unions in California attending.

Reports presented show a substantial increase in the number of both members and unions in the Federation during the past year, with steadily increasing demand by teachers for an adequate union to represent them in securing fair treatment and decent wages.

Ben Rust of Richmond was elected for his third term as president of the Federation. Others elected were Bob Trevor of Pasadena as first vice president, Mrs. Doane Lovelace of South San Francisco as second vice president, Paul McGinnis of El Cerrito as treasurer, Lloyd Lyle of San Bernardino as recording secretary and Fred Clayton of Salinas as corresponding secretary.

Robert Ash, secretary of Oakland Central Labor Council, welcomed the delegates at the opening sessions. A wide variety of problems and conditions affecting the Federation and its members,



BEN RUST—Re-elected to Third term as President of the California State Federation of Teamsters.

as well as California teachers in general came up for discussion and action in the two days of sessions.

Visiting speakers included Prof. Harold Winkler of University of California and Harvard, who spoke on the subject of "Civil Liberties," and Prof. E. R. Weinermann, formerly of Harvard and U. C., now a practicing physician, who spoke on "Health Centers."

N. Y. Exchange Head Admits Myth of Wide Stock Ownership

New York (LPA)—The myth that Americans generally are "capitalists" because so many of them own stock in corporations has been exploded by the head of the New York Stock Exchange.

That was not his intent when he made a pitch before the Economic Club of New York about his campaign to get more people to buy stock. But he gave these figures: Only one family in every five with an income of \$5000 to \$10,000 owns any stock; only half the families with income of \$10,000 and over own any stock.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, the average income of all spending units in the nation in 1951 was \$3820. Which means not many make \$5000, and even fewer make \$10,000 and over. All of which adds up to the fact that stock ownership is confined to the people in the big money.

A recent Commerce Department study of income for 1944, 1946, 1947 and 1950 showed who's got the money. In each of the four years covered, the consumer units in the lowest income fifth had 5 per cent of all the income; those in the top fifth had 46 per cent. The next to highest group had 22 per cent, the next 16 per cent, the next 11 per cent.

The Army Signal Corps operates a 3,000-mile submarine communications cable connecting Seattle with Ketchikan, Anchorage, and Unalaska.

NOW IS TIME TO GET VOTERS TO REGISTER

Now is the time registration campaigns for the 1952 elections should be started by local units of Labor's League for Political Education, the league's national headquarters said.

Registration deadlines are only a few months off.

In Texas, for instance, poll taxes must be paid by Jan. 31 in order to vote. The deadline for paying poll taxes in order to vote in Alabama is Feb. 1. Voters must register in Illinois for primary elections by March 15. The deadline for registering for the primaries in Oregon is April 20.

Voting qualifications may be changed by legislatures meeting in some states this coming winter.

In some states, the qualifications may vary from city to city and county to county. So a check with local election officials should be made before final plans for registration campaigns are determined.

Registration drives should start at least two months before registration deadlines so that as many persons as possible can register.

In order to vote citizens must be 21 years old in all states except Georgia. The minimum age in Georgia is 18.

Primary elections begin as early as April. They continue during the spring and summer through September.

Support the labor press.

'HEALTH PLAN NOT WAGES'

Phoenix, Ariz. (LPA)—A health plan asked by the union did not come under the head of wages but under "conditions of employment," an arbitrator has ruled.

Painters Local 86 here, under a contract clause permitting reopening this year on non-wage adjustments, asked for an employer-paid health and welfare plan. The Painting and Decorators Association refused, arguing any cash so paid out was a wage increase.

After several months the employers offered a "package" deal containing seven points, including a hospital plan that would have cost 9 cents an hour. The union turned it down, and several months later both sides agreed to put it up to two negotiating experts, one from Fort Worth, another from Seattle. The hot-shots couldn't agree and chose Rabbi Manuel Laderman of Denver as the third party.

Rabbi Laderman ruled that within the framework of the contract, the health and welfare plan was "a condition of employment." He cited the 1950-55 contract, and pointed out that the employer group was evidently willing to grant a "welfare plan"—although it later claimed such a plan was illegal—by including it in the "package" deal.

SALINAS—Home of California Rodeo

TEACHER'S NOTEBOOK

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
LOCAL 1020 MONTEREY COUNTY

The annual convention of the California Federation of Teachers was held at the Hotel Leamington in Oakland on November 27 and 28. Delegates from Monterey County Local 1020 were Janet Barber and the writer of this column.

State officers elected for the coming year were as follows: President: Ben Rust (Richmond); 1st Vice President: Bob Trevor (Monrovia); 2nd Vice President: Mrs. Doyne Lovelace (South San Francisco); Treasurer: Paul McGinnis (Richmond); Secretary: Floyd Lyle (San Bernardino). Fred Clayson was re-elected editor of The California Teacher.

Professor Richard Wiernerman, expert on public health, addressed the convention on the subject of group health insurance and said that the best plan where feasible is the cooperative organization of health centers.

Professor Harold Winkler, of the department of political science at the University of California and a member of our Contra Costa local, spoke on the battle for freedom of thought now going on in the United States. Dr. Winkler said that besides the communist vs. anti-communist controversy there is another one taking place which is just as dangerous to American freedom. This other controversy is the attempt, under the pretext of fighting communism, to suppress liberal thought, and should this attempt be successful, it will lead to fascism with loss of freedom equal to that which takes place in communist countries.

On academic freedom the convention re-affirmed its long standing opposition to communism and fascism and declared against any action on the part of investigating committees or government authorities in violation of the United States Constitution or the spirit of traditional American freedoms.

A Teachers Bill of Rights and Code of Ethics were adopted, as was a program of minimum stand-

ards for teachers working conditions.

It was decided to again present a legislative program at the 1955 state legislature to consist of bills similar to those which failed of passage at the 1953 legislative session.

FRED CLAYSON.

CIO Strong for Annual Wage, Repeal of T-H

Cleveland (LPA)—The CIO unanimously re-elected President Reuther, Secretary-Treasurer Carey, Executive President Riffe and the vice presidents in concluding its 15th convention Nov. 20 after pledging to fight for the guaranteed annual wage.

The 700 delegates approved a resolution putting the CIO into the leadership for labor's new bargaining goal after Reuther told them industry "might as well make up its mind" guaranteed pay is going to be won by the CIO.

"We of the CIO," he said, "are determined to get wages on a guaranteed annual basis, just as corporation executives are paid on an annual wage basis," and that would be the next demand in the automobile industry, where he serves as president of the United Auto Workers.

Spurning a call by Secretary of Labor Mitchell that "further talk" of wiping out the Taft-Hartley act be "precluded," the convention demanded outright repeal of the "unfair and unjust" law, with a new statute modeled on the Wagner Act replacing it.

The resolution pledging the CIO to "devote all of its energies and resources" to gain repeal accused the Eisenhower Administration of failing to keep its "solemn pledge to the American people to amend Taft-Hartley so as to make it a just, fair and decent law."

"The Administration has lost the initiative," he said. "We will continue to be cooperative, but we will not get a fair labor law until we elect a Congress that believes in the rights of labor."

PASCO PIPELINE.—Completion of a \$4-million oil pipeline from Pasco to Spokane is announced by Standard Oil. It is part of a \$48-million oil supply system to serve inland areas through the Rangely field in Colorado and Utah refineries.

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State Cracking Down on Jobless Pay 'Chisellers'

(State Dept. Release)

SACRAMENTO—A statewide roundup of persons who have defrauded the California unemployment insurance fund by failing to report earnings while drawing unemployment benefits is under way, William A. Burkett, director of employment, announced last week.

Burkett said investigations have been completed in 194 cases in the Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco areas and that the Department of Employment is presenting that number of cases for prosecution in the four areas. Unemployment insurance fraud is punishable by a six months' jail sentence or \$500 fine, or both, and restitution of money fraudulently obtained. Numerous additional such cases are under investigation throughout California and further complaints will be filed as rapidly as evidence is developed.

The investigations, it was explained, are the result of a new policy of 100 per cent matching of unemployment insurance payments with records of wages paid by employers, as recommended by the Fleury assembly committee of the California Legislature. This committee conducted an extensive investigation into fraud against the unemployment insurance system earlier this year. As a result, Burkett said, the department now is checking all benefit payments against wages paid, not just a token sample of about 10 per cent as was the former practice. This means that if a claimant conceals his earnings when claiming benefits, his evasion of the law will show up later and he will be held to account.

The revitalized fraud detection program also follows a statement of policy approved recently by the California Employment Stabilization Commission, which consists of Michael B. Kunz, chairman of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board; Glenn V. Walls and Edward Cain, Appeals Board members; Ralph R. Planteen, deputy director of the department, and the director.

This policy statement said there will be strict enforcement and administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act as the California Legislature wrote the law. It also said the program will be administered as a sound insurance program and that immediate efforts will be made to collect the approximately \$5,600,000 in delinquent employer accounts and also to recover overpayments of benefits paid claimants which is established at approximately \$850,000.

Matching of unemployment insurance benefit payments with wage payments is done in Sacramento by a machine called a collator. Its modern electronic brain recognizes and selects matching numbers many times faster than a human mind could function. It can now process 12,000 items an hour and a battery of 28 such machines is in almost constant operation, day and night, at department headquarters.

These machines are essential in paying insurance to eligible claimants, but they also function as impersonal, mechanical detectives. They take earnings records of individual unemployment insurance claimants and match them up with certifications for unemployment benefits taken by department local offices. When one of these electronic "eyes" in Sacramento "sees" that a claimant drew unemployment insurance payments during a calendar quarter in which he also had earnings, it reports that fact. Countless thousands of persons have earnings in the same quarters in which they drew insurance. This is normal. All such cases identified by machine, however, are reviewed. Cases which arouse sus-

picion come under close investigation. From that point on, it's easy to find out whether a person committed fraud against the unemployment insurance system by claiming he was unemployed and drawing benefits when he in fact was employed and earning a regular pay check.

James O. Reimel, chief special investigator for the department, emphasized that fraud occurs when a claimant fails to report earnings. An unemployment insurance claimant is expected to earn all he can. But he is required to report his earnings so that the department can determine whether he is entitled to insurance. The law provides that benefits may be paid when a claimant's earnings in any week do not equal his insurance benefit amount.

Plumber Is Writer

Gloucester, Mass. (LPA)—Clayton B. Stockbridge, for 30 years a member of Local 482, AFL Plumbers, won the first Cape Ann drama award with his two-act play, "The Gloucester Story." The award, a silver cup, was presented by Russell Crouse, famed playwright. The play was produced at the city-sponsored Festival of Literature and Drama.

Hear Frank Edwards!

Union

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Tragedy or Comedy?

The following two-act play might be called "What Happened to That Promise?"

Act I, Scene 1: A political campaign meeting hall. The place: Jefferson City, Mo. The time: Sept. 20, 1952.

Candidate Dwight Eisenhower: "We can reduce our budget."

Scene 2: Another political campaign meeting hall. The place: Baltimore. The time: Sept. 25, 1952.

Candidate Eisenhower: "Action along the lines I have indicated will soon begin to reduce expenditures and eliminate the federal deficit."

Scene 3: Still another political campaign meeting hall. The place: Fargo, N.D. The time: Oct. 4, 1952.

Candidate Eisenhower: "The kind of government this crusade is determined to offer you will eliminate deficits as its first step toward bringing down taxes and making your dollar sound."

Act II: The scene is a big room where President Eisenhower meets the press. The place: Washington, D.C. The time: Nov. 18, 1953.

Newspaperman: "Do you have any substantial hope of balancing the budget?"

President Eisenhower: "For 1955?"

Newspaperman: "Yes."

President Eisenhower: "No, I don't believe it can be done in '55."

(Curtain)

Watch Out for This One

Widely-published reports originating in the Treasury Department and the House Ways and Means Committee say that Congress will be asked to abolish or modify the so-called "double taxation" on corporation dividends.

The label of "double taxation" arises since corporations pay taxes on income from which they pay dividends, and stockholders also pay income taxes on dividends.

Would the Treasury and the Ways and Means Committee be willing to abolish or modify taxes on a wage earner's income because taxes are also levied on the profits from which his wages are paid? Of course not. But the situation is the same.

Taxes on profits of a corporation, as the AFL's Committee on Taxation pointed out to Congress last summer, are imposed on the corporation; dividends are taxed as part of the income of the stockholder. It should be obvious that such taxation is not "double taxation" in a true sense.



Highest Court Is Split Over Raiding Resources

By Barrow Lyons

Formerly Bureau of Reclamation Chief Information Officer

A deep rift in the Supreme Court over principles that go far beyond technicalities, was revealed in a 6 to 3 decision handed down on March 16 in the Roanoke Rapids Case, a suit which will affect profoundly the pattern of resource development in the United States.

Six members of the court upheld a license granted by the Federal Power Commission to a private utility to construct a dam and generating plant on the most profitable power site in a plan adopted by Congress for the comprehensive development of a river basin. The tremendous implications of this case have hitherto not been made known to the public.

Opposing this decision the minority opinion declares that the granting of this license constituted a raid upon the public domain, which Congress never intended, and virtually accuses the other six justices with supporting such action, although the law and the facts in the case appeared to the minority "too plain for argument." They held that Congress intended the Army's Corps of Engineers to build the Roanoke Rapids dam and power plant and operate them for the benefit of all the people, and that the power to license it to a private company passed from the Federal Power Commission with the passage of the authorizing bill.

The majority opinion was written by Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter and concurred in by Associate Justices Stanley Reed, Robert H. Jackson, Harold L. Burton, Tom C. Clark and Sherman Minton. The minority opinion was written by Associate Justice William O. Douglas and concurred in by Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Associate Justice Hugo L. Black.

The case arose from a license granted in 1948 by the FPC to the Virginia Electric and Power Company (Veeco) to construct a dam at Roanoke Rapids, a sit on the Roanoke River in North Carolina, which had been included in the comprehensive plan for development of the river in the Flood Control Act of 1944. Shortly after the passage of that act I became Chief Information Officer of the Bureau of Reclamation, named in the Act together with the Corps of Engineers as the agencies charged with development of the great Missouri River Basin. I followed closely developments in Congress and in the trade journals, and feel certain that nine years ago there was no notion that the statute might permit the FPC to pluck from any of the comprehensive plans covered in the act the most profitable power sites for licensing to private companies.

Later we published a color map of the Missouri River Basin plan that was posted in nearly every post office in the West upon which were marked all of the dams to be constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation and all to be built by the Corps of Engineers. The division of responsibility was worked out in joint conferences between the Reclamation and Army Engineers. I am sure that none of the engineers had any inkling that dams they planned to build might instead be constructed by private utilities.

Action in the Roanoke Rapids case was commenced by former Secretary of the Interior Oscar I. Chapman, acting with the Virginia REA Association, against the FPC and Veeco when the license was granted. The Circuit Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia held that the license was granted properly. The Supreme Court has now upheld this finding.

Granting of the license will enable the power company, it is estimated, to earn net profits amounting to some \$700,000 a year from the energy of the river. Counsel for the Interior Department held that it deprived the people of the United States of property that would bring them benefits of \$1,500,000 a year. Over the 50-year period which the license will run,

Gregory Hankin, representing the Interior Department, calculated it would be equivalent to a grant to the company of \$75,000,000 of government property. But the company has made application also for the Gaston power site further upstream. Taken together the two licenses should net the company around \$165,000,000 in 50 years, it was estimated.

In reviewing the case Justice Frankfurter declared: "A principal responsibility of the Commission (FPC) has always been that of determining whether private construction is consistent with the public interest. . . . We are simply asked to decide whether Congress has withdrawn the power to decide this question from the Commission. To conclude that Congress has done so by approving a general plan for development that may be, and in this case was, a plan for long-term development, would be to contract, by a tenuous chain of inferences, the broad standing powers of the Commission."

This interpretation throws open to possible licensing to private power companies sites worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year on many great rivers of the country. If the FPC grants such licenses, the possibilities of low-cost public power at these sites will have disappeared for many years. However, this may be just what the nation wants, for the belief has been widely stimulated that the private utility industry is likely to lose all interest in rendering public service and making progress, if it is forced longer to compete with low-cost public power.

What the Supreme Court minority thought of the Supreme Court majority was expressed in a manner seldom indulged in. The dissenting opinion after pointing out that the Roanoke Rapids site was made valuable by storage of water in a large reservoir built farther upstream, built with taxpayers' money, recognized the fact that public property in excess of \$700,000 a year was being transferred. The last two paragraphs of the opinion then really went to town. They read:

That \$700,000 of value is created by the taxpayers of this country. Though it derives from investment of federal funds, it will now be appropriated by the private power groups for their own benefit. The master plan now becomes clear: the Federal Government will put up the auxiliary units—the unprofitable ones; and the private power interests will take the plums—the choice ones.

There is not a word in the act which allows such an unconscionable appropriation of the public domain by private interests. To infer that Congress sanctioned such a scheme is to assume that it was utterly reckless with the public domain. I would assume that Congress was a faithful trustee, that what it approved as "public works" projects it dedicated to the good of all the people.

This opinion holds that an unconscionable raid is being made upon the public domain, that Congress never intended that this should occur, that the facts in the case and the law are so clear as to preclude even argument. Just where does that leave those who support the majority opinion, at least in the eyes of the minority, including the Chief Justice! Seldom has a minority report so taken to task the majority members of the court, and done so with such high scorn.

The effects of the decision upon coordinated development of river basins remains to be seen. It can be pointed out, however, that if the profitable power sites are removed from federal operation and turned over to private companies,



THOMAS EIDE
Bus. Agt. Monterey Carpenters
Union 1323

Domestics and employees of non-profit organizations, who are 65 or close to it, and are earning less than \$75 per month, may find their income supplemented to a very considerable extent. This is because many persons employed in these groups were given the protection of the Social Security program by the amendments of 1950.

Take the case of a lady who we will call Bridget O'Malley, as an example. Bridget is the widow of Mike O'Malley, a blacksmith who died in 1911. For years she has worked at the Rectory of St. Patrick's Church, partly to keep herself busy, and partly to obtain some income for her modest needs.

The amendments of 1950 permitted employees of non-profit organizations to be included in the Social Security program if certain conditions were fulfilled. The organization had to waive its tax exempt status in order that Social Security tax might be collected and two-thirds of the employees had to request coverage. Bridget, and Pat, the janitor, who was the only other employee, on being told by their pastor of the benefits that Social Security would offer, both voted to be included. Bridget then promptly forgot all about it until July of 1952, when, at the urging of her pastor, she visited the local Social Security office. There it was discovered that Bridget was 70 years old and had been earning \$45 a month as housekeeper for the rectory. Upon advice of the Social Security office, she filed a claim for benefits and was awarded \$25 monthly beginning with May 1952, which was the first month in which she had completed the required six quarters of coverage. She could accept her benefit payments and continue in her job too, because she is earning less than \$75 a month.

Your Security Office is at 196 San Augustine St., San Jose 10. Phone OYpress 2-2480.

that the financial "feasibility" required to meet statutory and administrative requirements will be greatly impaired. It could result in placing projects already begun in a not feasible class.

The effect upon rural electric co-operatives may also be very serious. It certainly will result in higher rates to farmers in the Roanoke River Basin, and when the principle of the decision is applied on a broader basis, to many other farming communities.

For the last 20 years low-cost power from publicly owned generating stations and transmission lines has been a powerful force in building new industries, giving stability to agriculture, and strengthening defense.

(Copyright, 1953, Barrow Lyons)

Here's the Dope



Calif. Labor Press Grows Rapidly

Labor press editors of the state, gathered in Santa Barbara over the past week-end for their 4th annual meeting, exchanged ideas on how to do a better job, and heard what University of California professors and also State Federation representatives had to say of their current efforts.

It wasn't by any means a mutual admiration session, for there were brickbats as well as bouquets for the work of the state's labor papers. Speakers and delegates generally, however, agreed on the tremendous importance of these papers, some representing individual unions and some representing councils, in carrying organized labor's messages to rank and file members.

Great increase in California labor papers in the past year was reported, with 96 papers now in existence.

At the final session, C. J. Haggerty, State Federation of Labor secretary, summing up and reviewing the Saturday and Sunday conference, once again strongly appealed for local unions and councils to give their labor papers more attention, more support and more circulation.

As at the three previous annual labor press conferences, there was some discussion and some difference of opinion on the main purpose of the labor press.

In his closing address, Secy. Haggerty summed up and expressed the majority opinion of the labor editors, thus:

"Primarily the labor press was set up to bring union messages to trade unionists and their friends."

That is still the major purpose of the labor papers and their reason for being, the State Federation executive pointed out. Nowadays, however, he added, the labor paper has the added responsibility of educating union members on economic problems and also on politics since anti-labor forces have shifted their heavy fighting now into the political field.

"Build up the circulation of labor papers," Haggerty advised. "We must reach the membership, all the membership."

He stressed the need of all working together, too.

"You can't live singly in this movement," he declared, "in California our growth has been great not just because of individual unions organizing members but because of coordinated efforts through the councils."

As at previous press conferences also, Haggerty sharply condemned unethical advertising practices of some labor papers.

Although there was some disagreement on whether or not advertising belongs in labor papers, there was general agreement among the delegates that in most cases it is a necessity. There was general accord too, that unions should be vigilant to prevent racketeering, or "boiler room" methods in selling advertising.

At the final Sunday session the group voted, on motion of Robert Ash, Oakland Central Labor Council secretary, to set on foot an effort to establish a regional council of International Labor Press Association, either for the Western states or for California alone.

At other sessions Saturday and Sunday in Samarkand Hotel, Santa Barbara, the more than 100 labor

paper representatives heard panel speakers discuss the labor paper in public relations, how to make papers more readable, how to set editorial policy and how to handle political issues.

Jack Henning, State Federation of Labor research and public relations director opened the conference, sponsored jointly by the State Federation and the University of California Department of Industrial Relations. Arthur Carstens of the University, director of the conference, also extended a welcome.

Haggerty on L.A. Educational TV

Los Angeles—C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, is one of the members of the advisory board of the nation's second educational television station here.

KTMHE, Los Angeles ultra-high frequency station, pioneering in the field of non-commercial television, was built with funds contributed by the Allen Hancock Foundation.

Capt. Allen Hancock, director, announced that the station is designed to serve all recognized educational institutions and community service organizations in the Greater Los Angeles area.

The advisory board will guide program development.

In the first annual report of its operations, the National Citizens Committee for Educational Television estimated that 27 non-commercial TV stations are expected to be on the air by the end of 1954.

The committee report pointed out that 86 other communities have well-advanced plans, but no target date set for operations.

The NCCET was established to work with civic and citizen groups that want to build or are building educational television stations on the 245 channels that the Federal Communications Commission has reserved for non-commercial telecasting. Organization, finance and publicity are some of the fields in which the committee directs its efforts, since these are most frequently the problems that must be overcome at the community level if stations are to be constructed.

It has been the basic policy of NCCET to encourage people interested in educational TV to organize non-profit foundations or corporations broadly representative of all the elements in the community, and with that structure to build and operate stations. Among many cities, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston and Cincinnati were cited as examples of effective organization and action.

An old Indian took his watch to be repaired. When the jeweler took the back off, a lifeless insect fell out.

"No wonder watch won't run!" exclaimed the astonished Indian. "Engineer dead!"



FOR ART'S SAKE—Pose must have been for the benefit of the photographer because it isn't likely Sandy Sims could enjoy a smoke in that position.—(LPA.)

Super-Rich Aid McCarthy

New York (LPA)—"Power and the expectation of more power are what bolster many of (Sen. Joseph R.) McCarthy's backers," says an article in the Dec. 1 issue of Look magazine by Richard Wilson, chief of its Washington staff.

More than 70 super-rich reactionary and powerful persons make up the "Ring Around McCarthy," as the article is entitled. Among McCarthy friends listed by Wilson are Vice President Richard M. (Weeper) Nixon; Mrs. Garvin Tankersley, nee Ruth Elizabeth (Bazy) McCormick, once vice president of the Washington Times Herald and niece of Col. Rutherford (Bertie) McCormick of the Chicago Tribune; Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth; Mrs. Gwen Cafritz, top gun of Washington society; Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, an assortment of Chiang Kai-shek's boys, some Central American and Spanish diplomats and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst, Jr.

There are also such right-wing writers and broadcasters as Fulton Lewis, Jr., George Sokolsky, Constantine Brown, Danton Walker, Bureau Chief Walter Trohan of the Chicago Tribune and Westbrook Pegler.

Among those who helped McCarthy's career along, Wilson says, are Harold Stassen, now head of the Foreign Operations Administration and a McCarthy victim; Tom Coleman, industrialist, Wisconsin GOP boss and a backer of the late Sen. Robert A. Taft; Wayne Hood, executive director of the Eisenhower campaign; Urban Van Susterin, with whom McCarthy lived while a judge when Van Susterin was a divorce counsel; Ray Kiermas, who, says Wilson, sold his grocery to raise \$25,000 to get McCarthy out of trouble and is now, with his wife, on McCarthy's staff at \$14,000, which appears to be a violation of the Hatch Act.

There is also Russell M. Arundel, lobbyist for the soft-drink industry who endorsed a \$20,000 note for Joe while the latter was fighting controls on sugar; H. R. Cullen, Texas oil multi-millionaire who put \$5000, the legal limit, into Joe's reelection campaign in Wisconsin, a long way from Texas; Clint Murchison, owner of Henry Holt & Co., book publishers; Austin Hancock, rich Texan who heads the so-called American Heritage Protective Association and who is promoting McCarthy for President; Robert E. Lee, ex-FBI agent now an Eisenhower appointee on the Federal Communications Commission, and assorted others.

McCarthy also has a personal staff of 50, Wilson says.

Teamsters Get Raise

Dallas (LPA)—The rise in the cost of living index has brought a 3-cent pay boost to 6000 Teamsters, employees of 40 trucking firms in Texas. The contract is between the Southwest Truck Operators Association and the Texas Conference of Teamsters.

Area Butchers Hold Council Meeting in S.J.

Thirty officials of the seven district groups of Butchers Union 506 gathered at San Jose last week-end for the District Council of Butchers Union 506, a meeting held for the purpose of exchanging ideas and outlining plans for the entire jurisdiction of Local 506.

Executive Secretary Earl A. Moorhead of Local 506 said several important discussions were held by the delegates, who came from divisions in Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Monterey, Salinas, Hollister, Palo Alto and San Jose.

Among recommendations were proposals that Local 506 invest in some \$7000 more of U. S. Savings Bonds and that reinstatement and initiation fees be studied and revised upward. Such proposals require ratification by the membership, Moorhead added.

After the council session, the delegates and their wives gathered at the Hawaiian Gardens in San Jose for a dinner party.

To be democratic, a union needs an active, interested membership.

GRANGE HITS SEC. BENSON

(AFL Release)

The National Grange called for continuation of the present program of rigid high support prices for farmers and refused to endorse the present reorganization of the Agriculture Department.

Both actions, coming at the Grange's 87th annual session, were interpreted as a rebuff for Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. He favors flexible price supports, and ordered his department reorganized in the face of much opposition.

The Grange program also called for freedom of farmers to operate with a minimum of controls, a purchasing power balance for agriculture equal with that of labor, industry and business, a conservation program to encourage efficient use of natural resources, a program to encourage farm ownership and a promotion of abundant production without waste or destruction of surpluses.

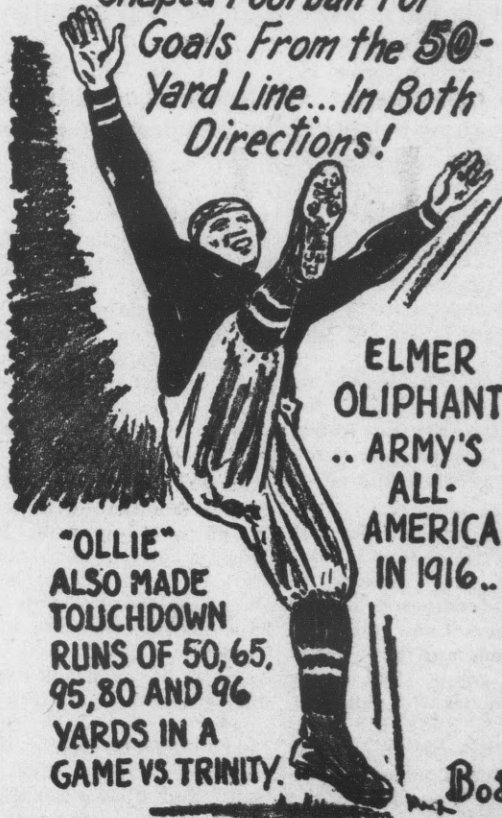
45 mph Jackrabbit

A jackrabbit can run as fast as a good race horse, often obtaining speeds up to 45 miles an hour.

NO KIDDIN'

By CLEM BODDINGTON

He Kicked the Old "Melon"-Shaped Football For Goals From the 50-Yard Line... In Both Directions!



ELMER OLIPHANT .. ARMY'S ALL-AMERICA IN 1916..

"OLLIE" ALSO MADE TOUCHDOWN RUNS OF 50, 65, 95, 80 AND 96 YARDS IN A GAME VS. TRINITY.

Bo.

Year after year Mail Pouch makes the "All-America" for chewing pleasure

Because the quality is right in the tobacco. Because it isn't overloaded with sugary sweetness that tires your taste. Treat yourself to the best. Buy MAIL POUCH today.



MAIL POUCH TOBACCO TASTES BETTER — LASTS LONGER

Labor Press Aids Millions

Washington (LPA)—The effectiveness of the labor press in educating millions of citizens on vital public issues was praised by the non-partisan National Public Relations Assembly.

The statement called the labor press "one of the most valuable instruments for strengthening democracy" while reactionary forces, aided by a great part of the daily press and the commercial magazines, spend lavishly in an effort to keep average citizens in the dark.

"In frustrating the efforts of predatory and reactionary interests the labor press is performing a service of the utmost value in making democracy live," said the Assembly. "It is essential to have a well-informed citizenry and the labor press appears to be the most effective instrument available for this purpose."

As to those who scoff at the effectiveness of the labor press, the Assembly pointed to a recent survey in the northwest that showed trade unionists and college graduates know most about the Hell's Canyon issue. "It would be in the best interests of true democracy if the members of other groups were as well informed on public issues."

Get the Point, Doctor?



ABOUT THE REBER PLAN

By JOHN REBER

The California Farm Bureau Federation recently held its annual convention at San Jose. Thousands of California's leading agriculturists were Bay Area visitors. The Federation has for years supported the Reber Plan with resolutions at State conventions held at Long Beach, Fresno, Santa Barbara, Sacramento and San Diego.

All state-wide farm organizations, such as the Federation, State Grange, Irrigation Districts' Association and California Farmers, Inc., have long been on record for a "full and complete investigation of the Reber Plan by unbiased experts."

In view of this, it is timely to review some of the reasons for this wide support of the Reber Plan by those groups representing California's greatest source of wealth.

Farmers know the value of water. Farmers know that all living things not only depend on water, but are composed mostly of water. Farmers know that you can irrigate lands and have those lands produce more than twice as much as unirrigated lands.

Farmers know that in many areas of California, such as the Imperial Valley, the Coachella Valley, the San Fernando, and in the major portion of the great San Joaquin Valley—to name but a few—those areas were originally deserts where nothing was able to grow—areas so bare of vegetation that "even the jackrabbit had to carry his lunch"; but where the magic of water transformed these desert areas into the most productive lands anywhere.

The Irrigation Districts Association of California comprises irrigation districts in California representing approximately 5,000,000 acres of lands now under irrigation. Since the average income from an irrigated acre in California is \$200 per year, the annual gross income from those 5,000,000 irrigated acres approximates \$1,000,000,000; and is, therefore, California's greatest source of wealth.

Strange as it may seem, our city of San Francisco is not as alert to the potentials from agriculture as other portions of the state, nor of the scores of millions of dollars which pour into the Bay Region annually due to what is grown on California's lands.

San Franciscans may be excused for this lack of understanding of agriculture because the little county of San Francisco's "farm income" is almost nil—though it does have some farm income. In contrast, Los Angeles County still

ranks as the most productive agricultural county in the entire United States, and everyone in Los Angeles is alert to the enormous wealth emanating from its farms. And one often hears that in San Francisco water is something which pours out when one turns on the faucet while in Los Angeles water has a reputation as being what produces wealth.

Because farmers are today producing a billion dollars annually by putting water on lands and growing crops, farmers are also alert to the value of water, and abhor any waste of water. Farmers have learned that the Reber Plan would be a great saver of water. Farmers have learned that California's greatest supply of water flows unused out through the Golden Gate. Farmers cannot understand why San Franciscans just "sit tight" and allow one-half of all the water California possesses to flow out the Golden Gate right past San Francisco's "front door" and do nothing about all this enormous waste and all this unnecessary loss of potential wealth.

California has plenty of lands waiting to be irrigated. In the San Joaquin Valley alone are more lands just waiting to be irrigated than that total of 5,000,000 acres above mentioned which are irrigated and whose irrigation districts are represented in the Irrigation Districts Association.

Those 5,000,000 unused acres in the San Joaquin Valley once put under irrigation could also produce an annual \$1,000,000,000. Since all those unused lands in the San Joaquin Valley are within from 100 to several hundred miles from San Francisco, would not much of such newly-created \$1,000,000,000 find its way to San Francisco's "marts of trade"?

What interests farmers is that the Reber Plan proposes to first conserve and then distribute enough of that water which is now wasting out the Golden Gate to irrigate those now-idle non-producing 5,000,000 acres in the San Joaquin Valley, and to create that additional billion annually to California's wealth. Farmers believe it's about time for San Franciscans to

Social Security Coverage Listed

"Don't make the mistake of thinking of Social Security insurance only as old-age protection," John J. Cassidy, manager of the San Jose Social Security office, cautioned today.

"Because 'old-age' comes first in the title of the program, many people overlook the fact that it is survivors insurance, too," he said. "The survivors protection feature of the program is of greatest importance to the younger worker. While the time when he can retire and get monthly payments is many years away, his widow and children would get monthly benefit payments if anything should happen to him at any time while he is insured under the law," Cassidy declared.

Cassidy pointed out that under the survivors insurance portion of the Social Security program, monthly benefits were being paid to over 1,170,000 widowed mothers and minor children at the end of July. "In many families," Cassidy said, "Social Security insurance payments are making it possible to maintain the home and educate the children after the untimely death of the family breadwinner."

Cassidy said that more than 66½ million workers are now insured under Social Security. They will continue to have this protection if they work in covered employment or self-employment for a length of time equal to at least one-half the time under 1950 and up to the time they reach age 65 or die. No more than 10 years covered work is required in any case, however.

'Time Off to Vote'

Jefferson City, Mo. (LPA)—Attorney General John M. Dalton has interpreted Missouri's "Time Off to Vote" law as permitting penalties by the employer. Under the law, an employee is entitled to four hours off while the polls are open to vote. If he does not vote, the employer can penalize him, but the burden of proof is on the employer. Also, it is up to the boss to decide on which four hours the worker gets.

alert themselves to this close-by "gold mine in the soils" which offers greater wealth every couple of years than has been taken from all the gold mines during all the more-than-a-century since Marshall discovered that first nugget up at Colma in the Mother Lode.

Identify your local union—Wear your union button.

YOUR ECONOMICS AND MINE
The Farmer and Prosperity

(This is the nineteenth in a series of articles entitled "Your Economics and Mine," dealing with vital discussions of the day. The series is prepared and distributed by the California State Federation of Labor.)

The unity of U.S. farmers and workers during times of economic crisis has been based on a realistic understanding of their common interests.

There can be no healthy market for farm products without the purchasing power of decent wages. And again, difficult times in agriculture have inevitably threatened the prosperity of the wage earner public.

Just like the wage earner, the American farmer lives in the shadow of Big Business where, in many instances, a few large firms control production, prices, and the destiny of major segments of the economy.

To protect the farmer against the perils of rapidly changing prices, Congress enacted a series of laws during the 1930's. The most important of these measures featured the parity program. Under the parity idea, the federal government stands ready to help the farmer if the prices of what he sells falls faster than the prices of the commodities he must buy. (See Your "Economics and Mine," No. 6—November, 1951.)

The federal government is now supporting such "basic" commodities as corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, peanuts and rice.

In the case of these commodities, the U. S. guarantees the farmer a minimum price which he is paid regardless of market conditions. In other commodities, the government may at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture increase the price by buying in the market. This latter technique may be of some help, but it does not guarantee a minimum price.

Since the beginning of 1953 the American farmer has not done well financially.

The farmer is now at a serious disadvantage, because the prices of farm products have dropped, while the prices of the commodities he must buy have scarcely changed at all.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the farmers' net income for 1953 will be one billion dollars lower than for 1952, a loss of 7 per cent.

However, the falling prices of farm products have not been passed on to the consumer. In fact, the "foods" in the Consumer Price Index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics have risen from 113.1 to 114.1 between January and August of 1953.

The farmer-consumer situation is well demonstrated in the following statistics issued recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

The U. S. housewife pays 17 cents for a loaf of bread but the farmer only gets 2.6 cents;

The U. S. housewife spends 29 cents for 10 pounds of potatoes of which the farmer gets 10.4 cents;

The U. S. housewife spends 22 cents for a can of peaches of which the grower only gets 3.7 cents;

The U. S. housewife pays 35 cents for a large package of frozen peas for which the farmer receives 6.0 cents.

While these figures only concern certain critical farm products, it is sobering to note that the farmer's overall share of the consumer

food dollar this June dropped to the lowest point in 12 years.

In his recent address to the National Grange, AFL President George Meany declared that the shocking spread between the prices received by the farmer and the prices paid by the consumer calls for federal investigation to determine whether price-rigging, speculation, and profiteering are taking place at the expense of the farmer and the city worker.

If historical trends mean anything, the U. S. farmer will turn to intense political action in times of economic crisis. Unity on the labor-farmer front could mean a more prosperous and more democratic nation.

Home Building About Dead

(AFL Release)

Four thousand fewer housing units were put under construction during October than in September, and 13,000 fewer than in October 1952, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The Bureau said the decrease from the September total was due largely to the "virtual absence" of new public housing starts during the month. It said that private housing starts totaled only 1,000 less than the September figure.

The total public and private housing figure for the first ten months of this year is lagging behind that of a year ago, the BLS reported.

Congress at its last session cut down the number of public housing units to be built during the current fiscal year which ends next June 30 to 20,000 units, as against 35,000 in the fiscal year ended last June 30.

Publicly owned housing starts dropped from 3,000 units in September to less than 50 in October. Officials said October marked the first time in six years that the monthly housing starts report did not include a sizable number of public housing starts.

The BLS report noted that private housing activity so far this year has exceeded the 1952 volume in all regions of the country except in the southern and west north central regions.

Texas Co. Gets Fast Tax Write-off On \$11,653,100

Washington (LPA)—Ten firms in the oil industry got aboard the federal tax gravy train for projects valued at \$15,507,180 in the list of handouts by the Office of Defense Mobilization made public Nov. 11.

The Texas Co. got aboard for three projects worth \$11,653,100: Cities Service, 1,081,550; Woodlawn Processing Corp., for \$1,617,500. Others favored were New Haven Terminal, Standard Oil of Ohio, Phillips Pipe Line, and Reef Fields Gasoline Corp. All were in the form of "certificates of necessity" which enable them to write off depreciation in five years instead of the usual 20 to 30 years, at an enormous saving in income taxes.

CARE OF BRAKES

Whenever the brake pedal on your car can be depressed to more than two-thirds of the way to the floor board when making a quick stop, it is time for an adjustment. Brakes usually require several adjustments to compensate for normal wear during the life of a set of brake linings.

AFL Is Seeking Scholarship Data

(State Fed. Release)

AFL unions offering scholarship programs of any type were urged this week to send the necessary announcement data to the AFL Workers Education Bureau in Washington, D. C.

The request was made in a communication addressed to all state federations by John D. Connors, director of the bureau. The AFL national education body is now preparing its survey, "Labor and Education in 1953," which includes a list of all scholarships offered by AFL organizations. The bureau is located at 1525 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Play it safe—follow safety regulations. Report all job injuries.

Right To Strike, Picket Is Upheld By Calif. Court

San Diego.—An anti-labor ruling by Superior Court Judge John A. Hewicker against three AFL unions here has been reversed by the State Court of Appeals. The presiding justice and two associate justices found the record did not support Hewicker's conclusion that the actions of the three unions constituted a combination in restraint of trade.

Two of the unions involved—Waiters and Bartenders Local 500 and Cooks and Waitresses Local 402—in March, 1952, started picketing a cocktail bar operated by Berne N. and Thelma Schweizer, after the Schweizers refused to sign a contract providing for a health and welfare fund. The noted California labor attorneys, Clarence and Henry Todd, represented the unions involved.

The Schweizers obtained a court injunction against the picketing on the ground that the welfare fund could not be granted without prior approval of the Wage Stabilization Board. The unions went back to work, offering a new contract without the objectionable features, but management still refused to sign. The picketing was resumed, with Salesdrivers Local 402 refusing to cross the picket line to deliver beer to the bar. Judge Hewicker granted an injunction against the three unions, upholding the Schweizers' contention that the picketing was unlawfully interfering with business.

In reversing Hewicker's decision, the appeals court justices noted that no evidence had been offered to show that the welfare fund could not have been approved by WSB in due course.

"The evidence clearly indicates," they said, "that the 'Schweizers' refused to sign the contract not because of any lack of proper approval, but because they were unwilling to pay the benefit payments in question."

The justices also noted that "It has long been held in this state that after striking, employees may engage in a boycott, including the right to a concerted withdrawal of social and business intercourse with the employer and the right to induce others to withdraw their business patronage from the employer and such action is lawful if reasonably relevant to working conditions and purposes of collective bargaining."

Commenting on the case, Attorney Henry Todd said it is extremely important to California labor at this time because it shows the picketing involved to be legal and it reverses a trend set in the "Seven Up Case" to restrict a union's right to disseminate information adequately concerning a strike or a boycott.

The court upheld the established right of unions to picketing and, said Attorney Todd, "the bogey man of the Cartwright Act was again laid at rest because the contention was specifically made that this combination of the unions violated the provisions of the Cartwright Act and the court held that the provision of the act which stated that labor is not a commodity must be held to have been intended to except from the operation of the act combinations of laborers for the purpose of furthering their interest by collective bargaining when not otherwise unlawful."

C. of C. 'Clarifies' Stand on Scuttling Social Security

Washington (LPA)—The U. S. Chamber of Commerce has "clarified" its position on social security changes. It is now willing to increase minimum benefits \$5, to \$30. The price is adopting its entire program—which in the guise of "Pay as you go" would relieve employers of much of their share of the payments, and put the system on a hand-to-mouth basis, with payments reduced to a dole.

See Slump In Mid-'54

(AFL Release)
Manchester, England.—World economists disagree on the likelihood of a depression in the United States.

The controversy was set off by an article in the Manchester Guardian, quoting Colin Clark, an economist with a world reputation. Clark declared a depression in the U.S. "is all but inevitable." He said 6 or 7 million would be jobless, and predicted "a rapidly mounting emergency" would come about mid-1954.

The Manchester Guardian, commenting on the Clark prediction, said it was not convincing "because it seems to allow no part at all to the amazing resilience of the American economy, or the undogmatic inventiveness of the American mind."

In Boston, Leon Keyserling said there was only one chance in 10 of a serious downturn in 1954. Keyserling, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Truman regime, said the Eisenhower Administration is "showing a determination and a capacity to use the weapons at its disposal to counteract any depressionary trends."

In Chicago, James Nance, president of the Packard Motor Car Co., called depression predictions "grossly exaggerated" but admitted "the going is tougher than anything we have experienced since 1940." He said the economy is still on a high plateau, can be kept there if business recognizes that we now have a buyer's market, "and demand must be created for products."

(Nance might have to drive an old Packard!)

\$100-Million Saving Seen by Beck in Trucks for Mail

Washington (LPA)—Use of trucks to haul mail over areas up to 300 miles from principal cities could save the government about \$100 million a year, President Dave Beck of the AFL Teamsters said Nov. 17.

Beck, chairman of the newly-formed Independent Advisory Committee to the Trucking Industry, Inc., said railroads cannot possibly compete with the "cheaper, faster" mail service trucks can provide on short hauls. He accused the railroads of fighting progress in objecting to such a switch.

John L. Redding, former assistant U. S. postmaster general and consultant to the committee, which is made up of trucking industry labor, management and supplier representatives, said the 450 truck mail routes set up by the government since February, 1951, cost only about half what it takes to transport the same mail by train.

Directors of the new committee are Beck and Presidents Walter F. Carey of the American Trucking Association, Roy Fruehauf of Fruehauf Trucking and B. M. Seymour of Associated Transport, Inc.

The directors said they are studying a proposal for "piggy back" transport of loaded truck trailers on railroad cars, but Beck added that it is misleading to claim the method would be a big help in solving traffic problems.

Play it safe—follow safety regulations. Report all job injuries.

CLOSED SHOP C OF C TARGET

(AFL Release)

Baltimore.—The U. S. Chamber of Commerce will oppose "any attempts from any direction to restore the closed shop," the chamber president declared. He charged that the Taft-Hartley Act is weak because it does not prohibit the union shop.

Robert Bowditch told the Baltimore Association of Commerce that the national body wants states to have more authority to enact anti-union laws, and added:

"We will oppose any attempt to permit unions to make an employer fire an employee at the whim of the union. We will oppose also any attempt to eliminate the authorization for state 'right-to-work' laws. 'The law should assure to employees the right to join unions—or to refrain from joining.'"

He said the U.S. chamber wants, "as a minimum," to give states power "to ban compulsory unionism and regulate strikes and picketing."

Living Costs Go Up Again for Eighth Month in a Row

Washington (LPA)—The cost of living hit another all-time high in mid-October, the Labor Department reported Nov. 25. The Consumer Price Index rose two-tenths of one per cent, the 115.4 per cent of 1947-49 prices.

The index rise gave more than 1,000,000 auto workers a 2-cent increase under the escalator clause in their contracts.

Prices were higher for housing, apparel, goods and services, medical care, personal care and recreation. Food prices were down two-tenths of one per cent, putting them 1.2 per cent below October, 1952. The cost of living now is 1.1 per cent above October, 1952, and 13.4 per cent above June, 1950, just before Korea.

Wholesale food prices Nov. 24 were at the highest level in 10 weeks.

Housing costs rose 0.3 per cent; apparel 0.2 per cent; personal care 0.3 per cent.

Rents were up 0.6 per cent, and the October rent index at 126.8 was above the previous peak reached in December, 1924.

Brains, Experience Land More Jobs Than Sex Appeal

Seattle, Wash.—Sex appeal doesn't always land the best jobs, at least you won't keep the job long if that's all you've got, declared Mrs. Terry Parker, vice president of the Office Employees' International Union.

Mrs. Parker made her statement to the Washington State Labor News in answer to one that Bernice Fitz-Gibbon, advertising director of Gimbel's department store, made last week when addressing deans of women and placement-office chiefs from more than 100 colleges in a forum on employment problems for women college graduates in New York.

Miss Fitz-Gibbon said sex appeal, not shorthand, will land the best jobs for girl graduates.

"Miss Fitz-Gibbon is way off base on that one," said Mrs. Parker. "I'll admit that a pleasant and neat-appearing girl will land a job faster than a poorly dressed, sloppy girl can even if the latter is prettier than the former."

"Miss Fitz-Gibbon may be speaking for herself when she talks about sex appeal but the majority of office women got their jobs because they have brains and experience."

FROM GAS INTO POWER

FPC has OK'd an 11-mile, 24-inch natural gas line from Antioch to the new \$80 million P.G. & E. steam electric plant at Pittsburg. The 804,000-hsp. plant will be completed next year.

Making Ends Meet Unlikely That Food Prices Will Jump in Near Future

By NANCY PRATT

In the past months increased charges for services, rents, public transportation, medical service and utilities have accounted for most of the rise in living costs and this trend is expected to continue. The increased cost of laundry, dry cleaning, and domestic help will make it particularly difficult

for women who work outside the home and don't have the time to compensate for these increases by doing more of their own housework.

As against this, it is unlikely that food prices will increase substantially in the coming months. Also, larger discounts and trade-in allowances can be expected on durable consumer goods such as appliances and furniture due to large accumulation of stocks of these items. Auto upkeep and operation costs, however, are likely to edge up in 1954.

THE BEST BUY

At one time oranges were a Christmas stocking item, reserved for special treats. Today a morning glass of orange juice is standard fare in most American homes. In recent years fresh oranges have disappeared in many homes due to the popularity of prepared juice.

Thanks to modern preserving and shipping methods, the vitamin content of fresh, frozen or canned juice is about equal, so buyer selection usually depends on individual taste preference, time pressures, and price. The type of juice that

suits your breakfast palate best or the amount of time you want to spend in preparing juice is a personal matter, but here is some information to help you decide which is the most economical buy.

This is the season to compare values if you favor fresh orange juice as oranges should be dropping in price from now until mid-February.

In judging whether fresh oranges are a better buy than processed juice, figure that a half-pound of oranges makes about one-half cup of juice (a normal breakfast serving). At 1953 prices a can of frozen or canned juice generally costs about 3 to 4 cents a serving. Therefore when fresh oranges are selling at less than 6 cents a pound (3 cents a serving) the fresh oranges are a better buy.

To figure the difference in price between frozen and canned juice you should be familiar with the amount of servings each regular sized can contains. The popular No. 2 can of canned juice (16 ounces) yields about 5 half-cup servings as compared to 6 half-cup servings for the 6-ounce frozen concentrate. This means that if you pay a few cents more for the can of frozen juice you will still get the same number of servings for the money.

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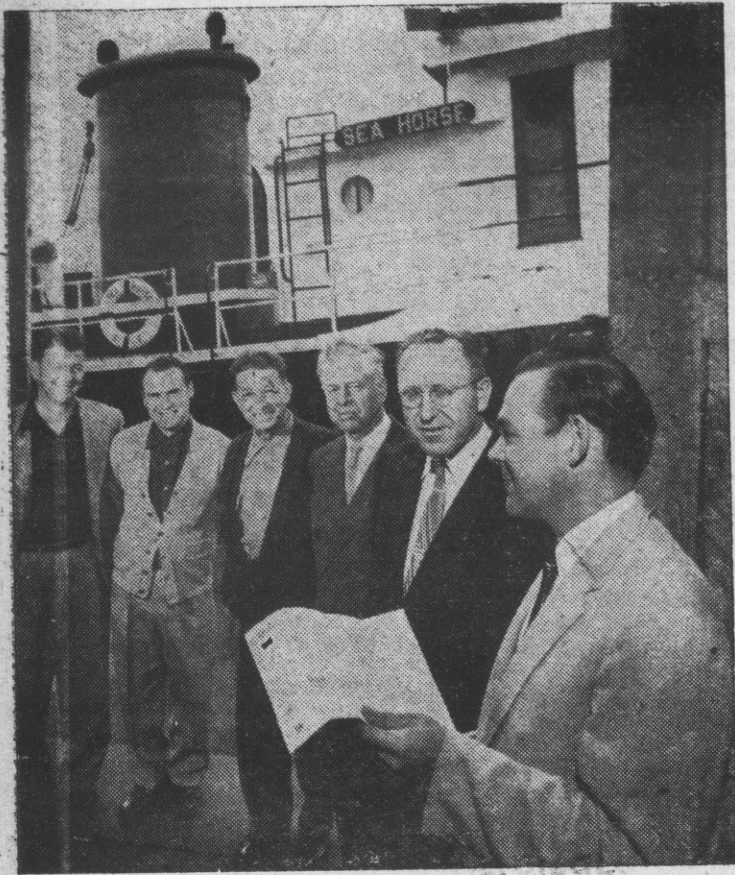
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Labor News

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1953



INSURANCE COMMITTEE of Local 40, Masters, Mates and Pilots, AFL, decide on welfare plan underwritten by California Physicians Service—the Blue Shield Health Plan—and West Coast Life Insurance Co. Members of the committee assisting Capt. J. A. Gannon of Local 40 are, left to right: Captains Melanson, Tigari, Hargens, Shirley and Gannon. Charles Mell, sales representative of CPS-Blue Shield, is standing at far right.

"THE GOP HAS FAILED"—MORSE

(State Fed. Release)

Senator Wayne Morse (Ind., Ore.) recently called for the election of a Democratic Congress in 1954 because "liberalism is dead in the Republican Party."

In a telecast sponsored by the Philadelphia branch of Labor's League for Political Education, Morse charged that the Eisenhower Administration failed to keep promises made in the 1952 Presidential campaign and being the "servant of Big Business and Big Banking."

"The death of rent control, the sabotage of public housing, the delay of Social Security expansion, the walkout on Taft-Hartley reform, the threat of a manufacturers' sales tax are all part of the pattern," he added.

"A year ago Eisenhower and the Republican Party were promising the American people bargain basement government. Everything was being marked down. The slogan was 'more for less.' You were promised reduction of the national debt, a balanced budget—and, presto, lower taxes.

"Farmers were promised 100 per cent of parity. Employees were promised extension of Social Security coverage and a revision of the Taft-Hartley Act. There was to be better defense. Name it—and it was promised. Nothing, the Republicans were saying, was too good and nothing was beyond possibility—and all for lower taxes.

"It should have been clear that Eisenhower and the Republicans couldn't make good on these promises. It is more than they have done after 10 months in office. It is more than they have done in two years—a full term of Congress—for the simple reason that they promised actions so inconsistent as to be impossible."

Apprentice Meet

Monterey Carpenter Apprenticeship Committee held its regular meeting last week with all members present from Carpenters Union 1323 and from the contractor group. Tom Eide, business agent of Local 1323, said important business was handled. Details were not announced, however.

Attend! Take part!

Laborers Hear Of Welfare Plan

Business representatives and other officials of various unions affiliated with the Northern California District Council of Laborers met in a special session in San Francisco last Saturday to hear details of the union's health and welfare plan.

Joseph Moreschi, international president of the Laborers Union, was to be a visitor at the meeting, held in Musicians Hall in San Francisco.



AFL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY MEETS—Improvements needed in the Social Security program, and threats to the program were discussed at a meeting of the AFL Committee on Social Security. Present were, left to right: A. J. Biemiller, AFL legislative staff; Wm. H. Cooper, secretary, Building Service Employees; G. W. Chapman, secretary, AFSCME; Mary Erb, staff; W. C. Hushing, chair-

Big Cal. Growers To Fly In West Indies Slaves—State Fed. Blasts Plan

(State Fed. Release)

California farm powers are planning to import British West Indian laborers into California for seasonal farm work, it has been revealed by the New York Times.

According to the Times story, which broke late last week, California growers are entering into the British West Indian discussions either to secure a new source of labor or to obtain a better bargaining position for approaching talks relative to Mexican contract labor.

The West Indian project drew the immediate fire of C. J. Haggerty, state AFL executive, who declared that importation of more foreign workers would only aggravate, an already critical farm labor situation.

Later this month Haggerty is scheduled to participate in a Mexico City conference called by the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT) to provide for importation of Mexican contract nationals under conditions which would protect both Mexican and American workers.

The present agreement between the United States and Mexican governments, covering the importation of farm workers, will expire December 31.

The New York Times story revealed that 10 officials of the British West Indies last week toured California citrus districts under the auspices of an American growers committee.

Heading the British group was Sir Stephen Luke, Labor Commissioner of Barbados. Also included were officials of Jamaica, Trinidad, and the Leeward Islands.

Accompanying them were Herbert MacDonald, British West Indies labor officer in Washington; Archie Campbell, security officer of the British Embassy in Washington; Fred Sykes of Miami, Florida, a sugar executive who was acting as "labor consultant"; William Meranda, a representative of Resort Airlines, which is interested in flying the workers to California, and Sir Robert Hadow, British Consul General in Los Angeles.

Last January a similar scheme to import thousands of Japanese workers for big California farms was uncovered by H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Agricultural Workers Union, AFL.

At that time Mitchell charged that the Citrus Growers Association of Ventura, Calif., had requested Governor Shinji Ono of the Wakayama Prefecture to recruit 7000 Japanese farm workers for orange and lemon groves on the Pacific Coast.

Following mounting U.S. protests against creation of an artificial labor surplus, the growers abandoned the Japanese project.

One doctor to another at the draft board induction center: "But on the other hand he's not in shape to be a civilian either."

MACHINISTS UNION HERE HAS ELECTION

Election of officers was completed last week by Mechanics and Machinists Union 1824 of Salinas, with incumbents re-elected in most instances although several interesting contests were settled by the ballot.

Business Agent Earl Choate of the union announced elected officials as follows:

President—Les Parker.
Vice President—J. L. Hammack.
Recording Secretary—C. C. Stover.

Financial Secretary—Ed McLean.
Treasurer—Manuel Nunes.

Conductor—Gene Cope.
Sentinel—J. K. Gunn.

Trustee—Floyd Fredell.

Executive Board—Charles Sheff, A. J. Cooper, C. D. Magoon, Leroy Anderson, Henry Lawrence, Ed Balcerzak and John Bowerman.

Delegates to District Lodge—Leroy Anderson and Gene Cope.

Two Carpenter Apprentices Win High Rank

Two apprentices who have been in training under direction of Carpenters Union 925 of Salinas will be advanced to the standing of journeymen shortly, according to Union Business Agent Harvey B. Baldwin.

Charles Beasley, apprentice under Contractor Al Juncker, becomes a journeyman carpenter on Dec. 12, while Don Imwalle, who has been training under Contractor F. V. Hampshire, will be advanced on Dec. 19.

The apprenticeship committee spent most of last week's meeting in reviewing the progress and advancement of five apprentices, Baldwin added.

Guadalupe Island off the coast of Baja California was once a lush island paradise, but Dr. Thomas Howell, zoologist at the Los Angeles campus of the University of California, reports that Guadalupe has been turned into a virtual barren wasteland by a herd of wild goats.

County Housing Studies Slated; Labor to Join

(Continued from Page One)

leaders in Washington, D. C., and came to San Francisco last August in a series of regional conferences.

"We are going to collect opinions and recommendations at the grass roots in Monterey County, and make the results available to Mr. Cole's committee, which is now developing a set of recommendations for the consideration of the Congress next year in developing the new Administration's national housing policy," Mrs. Walters explained.

The Housing Authority has invited J. G. Melville, San Francisco field office director of the Public Housing Administration, and M. Justin Herman, San Francisco regional representative of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, to participate in the Monterey County conferences—along with the members of the Housing Commission.

Local chairmen will be appointed for each of the four meetings, and all organizations with an interest in the county's future housing picture will be invited to appear and present its point of view. County and city officials are expected to cooperate, and military, business and civic groups, professional organizations, the realtors, the home-building and financing industry, church, labor, social work, agriculture and all other interested groups will be welcomed, Mrs. Walters explained.

Carp. Council Meets in S.C.

Regular meeting of the Monterey Bay District Council of Carpenters was scheduled for Tuesday night of this week in the VFW Hall in Santa Cruz, new headquarters for Santa Cruz Carpenters Union 829.

Thomas Eide, council president, said several important matters were on the agenda for the district council. Local 829 will arrange for refreshments after the business meeting.

Small boy's definition of a conscience: "Something that makes you tell your mother before your sister does."

man, AFL legislative committee; Nelson Cruikshank, director of AFL Social Security activities; Wm. F. Schnitzler, AFL secretary; Lane Kirkland, assistant director; Boris Shishkin, AFL research director; Matthew Woll, AFL; J. Scott Milne, IBEW; Lee W. Minton, Glass Blowers.